

Thank You

Ubuntu Niagara wishes to thank all individuals, big and small cogs in the wheel of success, for their work which has resulted in this evening's significant accomplishment to raise funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Our special thanks to:

Outreach Committee of Silver Spire United Church, for their hospitable partnership with **Ubuntu Niagara** in providing this lovely venue, planning team support and various essential work behind the scenes:

Special Guest: Ilana Landsberg-Lewis, for sharing her inspirational message with us.

Jackie Szymanski for producing publicity materials and programs;

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Ingrid Eshuis & Stephen Bedford, photographers

Sponsors and all individuals who donated much needed dollars;

Carlos Garcia, St Catharines City Councillor

Scott Rosts of Niagara this Week;

Cogeco TV Niagara Community Events

City of St Catharines Event Listings

The Grimsby Lincoln News;

CNiagara

All community organizations, churches and businesses throughout Niagara, that helped to publicize our event through display and distribution of posters; everyone who helped through social media promotion;

Our audience, without whom success this evening would have been impossible.

The Stephen Lewis Foundation, whose passionate advocacy for Africa motivates us to do all we can towards the eradication of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on the African continent.

A World without AIDS is possible

UBUNTU *Niagara*

PRESENTS

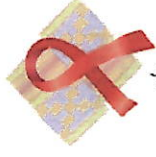
SEEDS OF NEW HOPE

World AIDS Day Benefit Concert

Saturday December 3rd, 2016

Silver Spire United Church
366 St. Paul Street
St. Catharines

Proceeds donated to:



the Stephen Lewis
FOUNDATION

UBUNTU *Niagara*

Ubuntu Niagara is an outgrowth of the Healing and Meditation Group from St. Andrew's United Church, Port Dalhousie.

St. Andrew's United Church closed in the summer of 2015, and the group transitioned into the present Ubuntu Niagara. Ubuntu Niagara comprises of a group of individuals who come together, in the spirit of Ubuntu, to plan and produce events that support our African sisters, brothers, and children. Our primary focus is still to support the work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation by creating awareness and raising funds for the plight of our sisters, brothers, and children affected, harmed, and/or destroyed by the horror of AIDS.

WomEnchant Chorus and Drummers has been integral in partnering with us to raise awareness and funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. WomEnchant's mission is to address issues of peace, social justice, equity and the environment.

Membership is open to all who wish give of themselves because they understand that Our Interdependence Surmounts All 'Human-Made' Boundaries, our individual beingness is woven into the tapestry of ALL life from which no individuation can disconnect - WE ARE ONE.

Ubuntu is a complex word from the Nguni language, that refers to the connectedness that exists between people. "I am what I am because of who we all are." Nelson Mandela defined Ubuntu as, "the overwhelming sense that we are human only through the humanity of others;" Archbishop Desmond Tutu described Ubuntu as meaning, "my humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up in what is yours."

For further Information:

Please email: ubuntuniagara@yahoo.com

Find us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/groups/ubuntuniagara/ or

Phone Gloria at 905-935-1168

WomEnchant CHORUS & DRUMMERS

Laura Thomas, Artistic Director; Tannis Beamer, Accompanist

WomEnchant Chorus and Drummers is celebrating 10 years of involvement in World AIDS Day Benefit Concert.

WomEnchant is a choir of women from a wide variety of backgrounds and musical experience. Our common thread is the desire to sing music that celebrates our lives, calls for peace and justice, and demonstrates the power of sisterhood and song. We welcome all women who want to learn and sing music that gives voice to our experiences and our commitment to making positive changes in the world. Since our beginning in 1994, WomEnchant has participated in many events centred around women's equality, peace, anti-violence and social justice. We have performed at benefits for shelters, International Women's Day concerts, Take Back the Night rallies, V-day anti-violence events, The Stephen Lewis Foundation World AIDS Awareness Day and performances for women's centres and social service agencies. Our appearances also include services and events celebrating and supporting Earth Day and environmental concerns.

WomEnchant has also sung at notable historical celebrations including the 160th Anniversary of the first Women's Rights Convention, held in Seneca Falls, NY in 2008 and the 100th anniversary of Harriet Tubman's Memorial held at the Salem Chapel in St. Catharines in 2013. In 2007, the WomEnchant drumming group was formed to give women the opportunity to learn about and perform on hand drums. Some of the drummers come from within the choir, while others belong only to the drummer's circle. The WomEnchant Drummers perform with the choir and on their own.

To accommodate women from both the Hamilton and Niagara areas, we rehearse in Grimsby Monday nights from September to May. For information about performances and membership email us at:

womenchant@yahoo.ca.

Program Part 1

Introductions by Emcee, Liz McGregor

O Canada
Liz Watson, signer

Calixa Lavallée, arr L Thomas

Welcome & Remarks

Rev. Jane Capstick

WomEnchant Drummers

Laura Thomas

Honourable Recognition

Janet Solberg

Keynote Speaker

Ilana Landsberg-Lewis

followed by Q & A

Donations Appeal

Liz McGregor

Program Part 2

WomEnchant Chorus and Drummers - Laura Thomas

The Chorus

Come Sing a Song with Me
Hope Is

Carolyn McDade
Music: Jeff Hale; Text: Emily Dickinson
arr. L. Thomas
Penny Mitton, banjo; Gloria Ugarte and Sybil Wilson, drums

O Siem

Susan Aglukark

The Drummers

Kassa
From The Heartbeat
Jump Up!

trad. East Guinea Harvest Song
Laura Thomas
Jerri Penrose

The Chorus

Adiemus
There is a Time
Solstice Carol
Let the River Run

Karl Jenkins
Carolyn McDade
Kim Baryluk, arr. N. Thompson
Carly Simon, arr. A. Turner

*Soloist: Tannis Beamer, piano;
Agnes Liles, Heather Scott and Peggy Sample, vocal*

Walk Sister, Walk

Nan Thompson

Intermission

Thank you and Invitation to Reception in Auditorium downstairs

Laura Thomas, Artistic Director, WomEnchant Chorus & Drummers

WomEnchant's Artistic Director, Laura Thomas, is a conductor, arranger, composer, percussionist and teacher. In addition to her position with WomEnchant, she is also Music Director of the Dundas Valley Orchestra and the Niagara Youth Orchestra. She is the Music Director and composer for *Flutes en Route!* featuring Douglas Miller. Ms. Thomas was, for six years, Artistic Director of Niagara's Choralis Camerata and was Associate Conductor of the Niagara Symphony for over a decade. She has appeared as a guest conductor with many ensembles including Symphony on the Bay, the Huronia Symphony, and the Etobicoke Philharmonic.

Ms. Thomas holds a master's degree in conducting from New York's prestigious Bard College, where she studied with Harold Farberman. She is also a graduate of Hamilton's Mohawk College and McMaster University, where she studied percussion and composition. Since 1985, she has been the Principal Percussionist with the Niagara Symphony Orchestra. As well, she is a member of Niagara's popular eclectic folk quintet BroadBand and performs regularly with her Vintage Jazz ensembles. She teaches at Brock University and Mohawk College as well as students in her private studio. She designed and presented the popular *Composer in the Classroom* program to thousands of students in the Niagara area.

In her work with WomEnchant and Broadband, Ms Thomas has found the opportunity to combine music and activism. Both ensembles perform for a wide variety of social justice events and causes and have raised thousands of dollars through benefit concerts.

Tannis Beamer, Accompanist

Tannis Beamer has been playing piano for the sheer joy of it for as long as she can remember. She completed a major in Applied Human Nutrition and a minor in Music at the University of Guelph. She has spent her career, thus far, further exploring her two passions in life: wellness and music. For over ten years Tannis has taught private piano lessons in the Niagara region while also studying with leading sound therapists in Canada and the U.S. To learn how the intentional use of sound and music can soothe the body, mind and spirit. This is Tannis' 4th year as an accompanist with WomEnchant Chorus and her fifth year with WomEnchant Drummers.

Ilana Landsberg-Lewis, Executive Director, Stephen Lewis Foundation

In 2003, Ilana Landsberg-Lewis joined with her father, Stephen Lewis to establish a Foundation that would work directly with grassroots organizations in sub-Saharan Africa in their struggle to turn the tide of AIDS. The Stephen Lewis Foundation has funded over 1100 initiatives, partnering with over 300 community-based organizations in 15 countries.

Ilana Landsberg-Lewis is a labour and human rights lawyer. Prior to the creation of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, Ilana spent eight years at the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Working to strengthen the UN's implementation of the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Ilana assisted grassroots women's groups around the world to use human rights conventions in their battles against gender violence. She also co-created a programme to bring grassroots activists into the CEDAW Committee to speak directly to their experiences, a practice so powerful that it is now integrated into CEDAW's official proceedings. Ilana was instrumental in launching the United Nation's Trust Fund on Violence Against Women.

In 2009, Ilana received the YWCA Women of Distinction Award for International Development and was named one of the top 25 Women of Influence in Canada in 2012.

Janet Solberg, Senior Advisor, Stephen Lewis Foundation

As the sister of Stephen Lewis, and the aunt of Ilana Landsberg-Lewis, Janet Solberg has been involved as a volunteer and staff member since the Foundation's inception.

Over the years, she has worked as a liaison with the Foundation's Grandmothers Campaign in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes providing them with support around events, education and outreach. She currently works, raising funds and awareness about the AIDS pandemic, with schools, unions and faith communities and recently supported the first-ever Canadian labour leaders' trip to Swaziland and South Africa. Janet also writes and edits for the Foundation's websites and print materials.

Prior to her involvement with the Foundation, Janet worked as a researcher for the CRTC, policy and communications advisor for the NDP federal caucus under Ed Broadbent, and acted as a labour nominee on boards of arbitration.